— Fiscal policies.

— Market frameworks.

These concerns are already reflected in the programmes initiated by the Government.

Tiger population in Rajasthan

341. DR. ABRAR AHMED:
SHRINANADESHMUKH:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the present population of Tigers in Ranthambhore National Park in Rajasthan;

(b) whether some cubs have recently been spotted in the Park; if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that the tiger population in National Parks like Sariska and Ranthambhore in Rajasthan has gone down at an alarming rate;

(d) if so, what is the latest figure in comparison to the past three years; and

(e) what steps are being taken by Government to increase the population of tigers, especially when tigers in National Parks have been a major tourist attraction for several years?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) The present population of tigers in Ranthambhore Tiger Reserve during 2001 -2002 is in the range of 35 to 43.

(b) Yes, Sir. 12 number of cubs have been recorded from Ranthambhore Tiger Reserve.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) The tiger estimation figures for Sariska and Ranthambhore are as follows:

	1995	1997	2001-2002
Ranthamb	38	32	*35—A3*
hore	25	24	22—26

(e) The steps taken by Government of India are as follows:

(i) Legal protection has been provided to wild animals including tigers against hunting and commercial exploitation under the provisions of Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972. *I*

(ii) Financial and technical help is being extended to the States under Centrally Sponsored Schemes for enhancing the capacity and infrastructure to provide effective protection to wild animals.

(iii) Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has been empowered under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 to apprehend and prosecute wildlife offenders.

(iv) Ministry of Home Affairs has written to all State Governments to lend a helping hand to the field formations to curb poaching and illegal trade in wildlife.

(v) A Special Coordination and Enforcement Committee has been set up under the chairmanship of Secretary (Environment and Forests), Government of India for control of poaching and illegal trade in wildlife.

(vi) In the recent meeting of Indian Board on Wildlife, it has resolved to declare the wildlife and forest as priority sector and fill up all the vacant posts of the frontline staff immediately and also to provide basic infrastructure necessary for efficient discharge of duties by them.

Noise pollution at IGI Airport

342. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a noise pollution monitoring exercise was undertaken at the IGI Airport, New Delhi by the Central Pollution Control Board, which revealed that the decibel level at the airport exceeded the permissible limits by the wide margin; and